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"Jaundice" in the City.

* SHORT NOTICE QUESTION 48.—DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases of attack of epidemic "jaundice" in the Madras City during the last three months—monthwar;

(b) the number of deaths among these cases;

(c) the precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease; and

(d) the possible source and cause of this disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (a) & (b) The number of cases of attacks and deaths due to jaundice in Madras City during the last three months are as follows :—

Months.	Number of attacks.	Number of deaths.
December 1955 ..	69	5
January 1956 ..	114	5
February 1956 ..	95	11

(c) A Press Communique was issued by the Corporation in the local dailies on 18th January 1956 informing the public of the prevalence of the disease in North India and the possibility of increased incidence in the City through migration of cases and carriers and advising them to take necessary precautionary measures and to notify all Jaundice and suspicious cases to the Public Health staff. The Public Health staff were instructed to keep the areas under their respective jurisdiction clean, tidy and free from flies and to seize and destroy rotton fruits and foodstuffs exposed to dust and flies. Sanitary and Food Inspectors were detailed to inspect all hotels and other eating houses and to take immediate action wherever necessary. In all notified and detected cases, the Sanitary Inspectors disinfected the infected houses and surrounding areas and made house to house inspections to detect or remove suspicious cases and give necessary instructions for the prevention and check of the spreading of the disease. Necessary attention has also been paid towards the adequate protection of City Water-supply.

A Press note was also issued by the Government on 2nd March 1956 explaining the mode of infection and the precautions to be taken by the public to prevent the spread of the disease.

(d) The source of infection is possibly local, as the disease is endemic in Madras State. The causative agent is a filterable virus, viz., virus of Infectious Hepatitis.

DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to tell us how the incidence of the disease and the death rate compare with the incidence and death rate in the previous six months? I am asking this question to find out whether jaundice is really in an epidemic form or whether its incidence is only the normal incidence?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The number of attacks were 43 in July 1955, 40 in August, 42 in September, 53 in October and 59 in November. From these figures it appears that the number

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of attacks were more in the months of December 1955 and January and February 1956 than in the previous months.

DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to tell us whether any Ayurvedic treatment was tried for these jaundice cases and how does it compare with the allopathic treatment that has been so far available?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Some drops to be put into the nose prescribed by an Ayurvedic physician was tried in the Madras General Hospital. The patients were put in a separate ward. This treatment had no effect.

DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Is the Hon. Minister satisfied that jaundice was not imported into this City from Delhi where there has been a scare for the last one year?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : It is supposed that the cause is local. Jaundice is more or less prevalent all through the year in Madras as well as elsewhere.

DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : In view of the statement of the Hon. Minister, will the Government be pleased to issue a press note assuring the public that there is no cause for fear or panic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Whatever little panic there might have been, it has subsided now and there may be no need for a press note.

SRI K. T RAJU : மஞ்சள் காமாலை நோயினால் சென்னை ஜில்லாவில் எத்தனை பேர் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களில் எத்தனை பேர் இறந்தார்கள் என்பன பற்றி கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கணக்குகள் கொடுத்தார்கள். இதர ஜில்லாக்களில் யாராவது இந்த நோயால் சமீபத்தில் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்களா, அப்படியானால், பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் எத்தனை பேர்? பாதிக்கப்பட்டு இறந்தவர்கள் எத்தனை பேர்?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Jaundice cases are found in every district. Mostly the attack is mild and sporadic. Occasionally a few cases terminate fatally.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Recently an American Expert has said that jaundice is incurable. May I know whether the Government have taken any step to find out the truth of this statement?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There is no specific cure for jaundice. Jaundice damages the liver. But, as I said, in most of the cases the attack is of a rather mild character and nature itself cures the disease.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, jaundice is not an unknown disease in India and cure for it has been specified in almost all the medical systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, etc. Have the Government taken any steps to go into this matter, cause a research to be made, and then find out whether the specific given in those systems can be applied with good results?

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The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : If the hon. Member has information particularly about any cures for this disease, he may kindly pass it on to me so that I may get them tried and examined. But so far as I know, jaundice has no specific cure. In modern medicine, they give intravenous injections of glucose.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : I am prepared to pass on the information to the Hon. Minister.

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR : மஞ்சள் காமாலை என்னும் தொத்து நோயானது டில்லியிலிருந்து இங்கு வந்ததாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. எதிர்க்கட்சித் தலைவர் தோழர் ராமமூர்த்தி அவர்கள்கூட டில்லிக்குப் போனபோது இந்தத் தொத்து நோயால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மந்திரிகள் அடிக்கடி டில்லிக்குப்போய் வரவேண்டியிருப்பதால், அவர்களுக்கும் இந்த நோய் தொத்திக்கொள்ளாமலிருப்பதற்கு அவர்கள் டில்லிக்குப் போவதை நிறுத்திக்கொள்வார்களா?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : அவர்களுக்கும் வரவேண்டுமென்பது கனம் அங்கத்தினருடைய ஆசை போலிருக்கிறது.

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : There is no reason to suppose that the infection has been imported from Delhi. Because, jaundice is more or less prevalent during all times of the year in all places. In Delhi they supposed that this epidemic jaundice was due to Jamuna water getting mixed up with sewage.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : In Delhi sullage water and gutter water got mixed up with the drinking water, and that is how jaundice took a heavy toll of lives. But in Madras the Corporation maintains a perfect system of water-supply. Does the Hon. Minister know that there is no possibility of gutter water getting mixed up with drinking water and so there is no cause for panic that this disease is spreading here?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Member has not intelligently followed the answers I have given. Jaundice cases are prevalent throughout the year in all places. This is nothing new or strange. It is supposed to be due to a virus, but the virus has not yet been discovered.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Being unable to understand the very purport of my question, am I correct in presuming that the Hon. Minister is suffering from jaundice so as not to perceive the import of my question?

Sri P. SELVARAJ : Since the disease seems to have been imported from Delhi, may I know whether the Government have adopted quarantine methods to prevent the spread of this disease in Madras?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : I have been telling that there is nothing to suppose that the infection has been imported from Delhi. Whenever any cases occur, measures are taken to isolate them to the extent possible.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM : Sir, it has been reported in the papers that miraculous relief has been given by the administration of indigenous medicine. That is, by giving some drops of herbs, in

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Delhi, the disease was cured. Will the Government please make enquiries of the Delhi Government to find out whether any examination of these herbs was made?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : There is no basis for the statement of the hon. Member. No such report has come from Delhi. Communications in this matter are received from the Director-General of Health Services by the Director of Medical Services.

Sri A. M. RATNASWAMY : Sir, will the Hon. Minister make it clear to this House that this disease has been completely brought under control? Instead of leaving this disease to Nature's cure, what are the effective steps taken by the Government to see that this disease does not recur?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : The measures recommended are, boiling milk and water before they are drunk and preventing the contamination of food and drink by infection from flies and also taking other general precautions. This virus cannot be killed merely by chlorination or by filtration. If water is boiled, that will effectively destroy the virus.

Sri C. KANDASAMY : From the statement of the Hon. Minister, it is certain that the allopathic system of medicine cannot cure this disease. But by custom and practice people have come to know, as my hon. Friend Sri S. Ramalingam said, that herbs like *Keezhanalli* give an effective cure for this disease. Will the Hon. Minister convene a meeting of Ayurvedic pandits and consult them as to the ways and means of curing this disease?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : I do not see the necessity for any such conference. In most cases the disease is mild. It is only in a few cases that clinical symptoms appear. The majority of cases get cured even without treatment. But in modern medicine there is treatment provided for the general symptoms.

Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to tell us whether it is not a fact that all the supposed claims for the cure of jaundice are only in regard to that variety of jaundice known as catarrhal jaundice, which is not due to a virus but due to either cold or some other malady, but that in regard to the epidemic jaundice no satisfactory treatment as yet has been discovered?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : It may be so, Sir. The hon. Member has been a practising physician in the City for a large number of years. He is expected to know what he speaks about.

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN : What is the essential difference between Delhi jaundice and Madras jaundice, Sir?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : There is no difference. Sometimes the cases are mild. Sometimes they are severe. For instance, hon. Members may be aware that just after the termination of the first world war, influenza spread over many countries in an epidemic form, and many cases proved fatal. But that it is not so always.

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SRI B. K. NALLASWAMY : There is a popular medicine in villages called 'Keezhanalli'. 'Keezhanalli' medicine taken with goat's milk cures jaundice within 15 days. Will the Government therefore, ask the doctors in indigenous medicine to make some experiments on this?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Many exaggerated claims are made by many people who have no scientific bent of mind. As I said, most cases get cured by natural process.

SRI V. MUTHU : மஞ்சள் காமாலை என்னும் நோய் நம் நாட்டில் நீண்ட காலமாக இருந்துவருகிறது. அந்த நோயைப் போக்குவதற்கான வைத்திய முறையும் இருந்துதான்வருகிறது. வைத்தியர்களும் இருந்துவருகிறார்கள். ஆனால், அப்படிப்பட்ட வைத்தியர்கள் எங்கோ மூலை முடுக்குகளில் தெரியாமல் இருப்பார்கள். அவர்களைக் கண்டுபிடிப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஒரு ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். அதாவது, இந்த நோயைத் தீர்ப்பதற்கு வைத்திய முறையை யாராவது சொன்னால் அது சர்க்காரால் கவனிக்கப்படும் என்று சர்க்கார் அறிக்கை வெளியிடுவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : If there are any such specific cures which have been tried, the information may be passed on to the Director of Medical Services and we shall try it in our Government hospitals.

SRI A. SAMBASIVAM : இப்பொழுது வந்திருக்கக்கூடியது ஜாண்டிஸ் என்ற காமாலை நோய் அல்லவென்றும், இது பொதுவான மஞ்சள் நோய் என்றும், ஜாண்டிஸ் என்ற காமாலை நோயாக இருந்தால் கண் மட்டுந்தான் மஞ்சளாக இருக்குமென்றும், இப்பொழுது காணப்படுகிற நோயினால் உடம்பும் மஞ்சளாகி, ரத்தமும் மஞ்சளாக மாறிவிடுகிறதென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இது அரசாங்கத்தின் கவனத்திற்கு வந்ததா ? அரசாங்கம் இதுபற்றி ஆராய்ச்சி செய்கிறதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. People think that the disease is jaundice only when they see the discolouration—yellow colour of the urine and eye-balls.

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Sir, jaundice is very common in South India. I myself was a victim to that disease in my younger days. There is a herb called Kizhanalli which is used for curing the disease. This herb completely cures the disease. I do not know why should such a fuss be made on the floor of this House over the treatment to be given for this disease? Is it because that somebody got the infection from Delhi and suffered at Madras? 9.30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Hundreds of thousands of people have suffered from this disease and have recovered not having used Kizanalli.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : In my area, people grow a variety of herb called 'Manjal Karisirankanni'. This is grown in almost all villages and this is being used effectively for curing jaundice disease. This herb is cooked and taken along with rice food. This herb has got very great effect on jaundice. Will the Government try this on the patients here in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Members seem to know many cures for jaundice. They are welcome to use them.

If information is given to the Director of Medical Services we shall see whether we can try these remedies in our Government hospitals.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : The Hon. Minister did not understand what Mr. Gopala Gounder stated in his question. When Kizanalli is available and when it is also very cheap and when poor people need not spend anything for getting it, I wish to know why the Hon. Minister is enamoured of modern costly medicines especially when our country is poor and when our people cannot afford to take costly drugs?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Member can use remedies which he thinks are useful and good.

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : May I know whether jaundice is spread through buffaloes' milk given to patients in hospitals?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : That is something new which has not been investigated.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister for Public Health whether he has got a contempt towards indigenous medicines and that was why in a most contemptuous way he spoke about Kizanalli. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he is prepared to take into consideration the suggestions made by hon. Members on the floor of the House which are namely that there are herbs available which are very effective for the prevention and cure of jaundice and if so whether he is prepared to enquire into the matter and see that some research is made into them by modern scientists? This herb Kizanalli is valuable for the effective prevention of jaundice disease.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I am prepared to examine any suggestion in this matter. The other day the hon. Member suggested that there was a honey method for birth control. I asked him to send a note immediately as to what it was and to give all particulars about it. He has not yet furnished me any information. He is making statements without any basis.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether I have not told him this morning about the honey method, that it is not a thing to be taken by mouth but that it is to be used somewhere else, which I am not going to expatiate on. (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : He told me something, it is true. But I was not able to understand what exactly he was saying.

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Sir, some Members in this House have expressed doubt regarding the efficacy of medicines for curing jaundice. Are the Government aware that there is a system called

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'faith cure' prevalent in villages? Will the Government examine whether the system of faith cure is effective?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, faith can cure many diseases and most diseases are self-cured, and drugs are only make-believe.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether the Hon. Minister has read or heard of a report in the papers of a South Indian lady having successfully tackled this disease and if so will the Hon. Minister establish immediate contact with that lady, Sir?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Member may establish contact in the first instance and pass on the information to me.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : In English language there is a saying that a person suffering from jaundice is supposed to be affected by jealousy. May I know whether the people in Delhi are suffering from jealousy and whether any psychological cure has been given to them?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. Many of these diseases get worse on account of some fear-complex or panic. There is a good deal of the mental factor involved in all diseases.

SRI G. GOVINDAN : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, மஞ்சக் காமாலை என்ற வியாதி வந்தால் அதிகாலையில் சாப்பிடுவதற்கு முன்னதாக வெறும் வயிற்றில் வெல்லக்கட்டியைச் சாப்பிட்டால் அந்த வியாதி தீர்ந்துவிடும் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி விசாரணை செய்து அதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க சர்க்கார் முயற்சிப்பார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : That may be, Sir. I am glad to find many of the hon. Members have a good deal of information about this subject. Any useful information if given to me I shall have it considered.

SRI C. KANDASAMY : Considering the importance of the question, will the Hon. Minister call for information from the Director of Medical Services, Delhi State, about the steps taken for curing jaundice disease in Delhi and place it on the Table of the House for the information of hon. Members?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No special methods have been tried in Delhi with success. In fact in Delhi there have been many more fatal cases than in Madras.

Plantation estates in Malabar

* 3441 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of plantation estates in Malabar where minimum wages recommended by the Special Tribunal have not been implemented by the owners?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Two estates—Kuppamudu and Adelaide, Sir.